

**CREATIVE CITY NETWORK OF CANADA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Friday, October 20, 2017 | 8:15am-9:00am
Commonwealth Ballroom, Westin Nova Scotian
1181 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS B3H 2P6

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: THE SLATE

Yvonne Chui, City of Maple Ridge, BC

Described as a passionate and driven leader, Yvonne Chui has worked over 23 years in the cultural sector focusing on arts, heritage, and tourism. She is known as a “relationship builder” who, through arts and culture, inspires innovative approaches to connecting people, communities and ideas. She has an extensive background in management of arts organizations in the not-for-profit sector and municipal government and some consulting for community groups such as the Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association. Most recently she has been responsible for the development of public art, cultural grants, artist in residence program, and special events with the City of Maple Ridge. Yvonne received her B.A. in Arts with a double major in Anthropology and Sociology from the University of British Columbia and has continued her education in the arts area including “Arts for Social Change”, placemaking with Mark Lakema, and more recently in the UBC Cultural Planning program.

Paula Davis, Town of Port Hawkesbury, NB

Paula Davis has worked for the Town of Port Hawkesbury in the cultural field since graduating from Mount Allison University. She is responsible for the recreation, leisure, aquatic, and cultural programming for the Town of Port Hawkesbury. The town has a population of 3300, but attracts regional participation from the surrounding counties. Paula has developed and programmed the Granville Green concert series for 23 years, which is a free outdoor concert series, made possible through community partnerships. She has also been responsible for marketing and securing sponsorship support for all cultural events, which is instrumental to their sustainability.

Sarah Douglas-Murray, Town of Oakville, ON

Sarah Douglas-Murray is the Senior Manager of Cultural Services for the Town of Oakville. In her role as senior manager, she oversees the cultural services division which includes cultural planning and outreach, special events, and the direct operation of the town’s cultural facilities — the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, Oakville Museum and Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre. Sarah’s cultural services team is working to implement the Town of Oakville Cultural Plan 2016-2021 and has been successful in exponentially growing cultural programs, outreach, and the capacity of cultural groups within the community. Sarah is a graduate from the University of Toronto with a degree in Art History, Anthropology and Sociology, is a graduate of the Cultural Careers Council of Ontario’s Income Managers Program, and has a Certificate in Cultural Planning from the University of British Columbia.

Jule DuPont, City of Ottawa, ON

Julie DuPont is the Portfolio Manager for the City of Ottawa's Public Art Program, encompassing public art commissions, acquisitions for a circulating art collection and professional galleries. She currently oversees commissioning projects including the Light Rail Transit Art Program, many road and infrastructure projects and engaging the private sector for new public art opportunities. Her work also includes cultural and creative policy development, space making, social engagement, collaborative working with digital media and creative industries.

Before joining the City, Julie was actively involved in the local arts community having worked in artist run centres and not for profit cultural organizations. She has been with the Public Art Program for 28 years and over her time has held positions as the Collections and Curatorial Assistant, Planner for Exhibitions, and Public Art Officer Commissions. Through the City she has worked with the private sector managing commission projects and has also worked with the University of Ottawa on launching their first public art commissions and policy.

She is a graduate from Algonquin College School of Art and Technology's Fine Arts / Fine Crafts program and also earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Ottawa's Visual Arts program.

Gillian Hards, Town of Richmond Hill, ON

Gillian Hards currently serves as the Cultural Services Coordinator at the Town of Richmond Hill. In this role, Gillian is responsible for the implementation of Richmond Hill's Cultural Plan, a ten year plan to build a more vibrant Richmond Hill. In this role, Gillian has undertaken the development of many projects and initiatives including the Richmond Hill Community and Cultural Grant Program, Culture Map, Cultural Summit and Celebrated Stories program.

Prior to joining Richmond Hill, Gillian completed an MA in Public Policy and Administration at Ryerson University with a focus on cultural policy. Gillian has also received a postgraduate diploma in Arts Management from Humber College and an undergraduate degree in Cultural Studies from Trent University. As an Arts Administrator, Gillian served as the Producer/General Manager for Crow's Theatre from 2004-2010. Gillian has also worked as an Administrator for the Music Gallery and Marketing Intern at Nightwood Theatre. Additional work experience includes roles at the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport as a Tourism Policy Assistant and Program Coordinator at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Gillian has served as a Board Member for the York Region Arts Council, Canadian Drama Foundation and Praxis Theatre and as an advisor to the Uth Ink: Playwrights in the Community program, the Playwrights Guild of Canada, York Region Arts Council and the Creative City Network of Canada: Awards Program.

Lisa Hickey-Besserer, City of Calgary, AB

For almost 20 years, Lisa Hickey-Besserer has worked in the arts and cultural sectors through her positions with municipal government, commercial galleries and not for profit organizations. Her professional experiences include the management of performance and visual arts festivals, cultural programming, community engagement, volunteer management, strategic program development, arts education and project management. She obtained her Honours BA specialist degree in Arts Management with a major in Fine Art History from the University of Toronto. In 2014 she completed the University of British Columbia's Certificate in Cultural Planning. Lisa has been with the City of Calgary's Culture division since 2007, when she joined the Public Art Program as a coordinator. In this position she has been responsible for implementing and managing over 25 public art projects, and has been the lead on the development of a number of program initiatives including the creation of an arts education portfolio and the launch of Calgary's first city-wide public art map. Prior to her career in public art, Lisa held positions with the University of Toronto, Arts Etobicoke, the Glenbow Museum and the Lonsdale Gallery. She has also consulted for several commercial galleries in Calgary and Invermere, Alberta.

Jennifer Fitzpatrick, City of Humboldt, SK

Jennifer has been on the CCNC Board of Directors since 2013, and most recently the Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Jennifer brings the voice of a smaller municipality to the conversation as the Director of Cultural Services for the City of Humboldt, Saskatchewan, population approximately 6,000.

Jennifer is passionately involved in the arts, culture and heritage in Humboldt, managing the civic museum in a 1912 national historic site, public art gallery in a 1920s historic bank building, the Original Humboldt site which is an 80 acre parcel of land with public archaeology and art installations to depict its history, the municipal Public Art program, Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and most recently the Historic Water Tower which has been re-adapted with an internal staircase and exterior catwalk for the best view of the city. Jennifer is a member of the Humboldt Downtown Business Improvement District who recently launched their new vision for the downtown core.

Jennifer is the author of the book "100 Interesting Stories about Humboldt" published in 2005. She has a degree in Anthropology from the University of Saskatchewan and a Diploma in Cultural Resource Management from the University of Victoria. She was part of the municipal team who created the "Our Humboldt Culture-Led Growth Plan" which continues to guide the creative life of the city. Jennifer also is a member of the Humboldt Area Arts Council, bringing in visual and performing arts to the gallery, and part of the provincial OSAC board. She has also served on provincial boards for the Museums Association of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation. She was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 for her work in heritage and cultural activity.

Kelly Jerrott, City of St. Albert, AB

Kelly Jerrott has more than 25 years' experience as a leader in the arts and cultural sector in Canada, and holds a Master of Arts in Leadership from Royal Roads University, in Victoria, British Columbia. She is currently the Director of Cultural Services with the City of St. Albert, in Alberta, Canada, known as the "Botanical Arts City". She serves at the national level as Vice President of the Creative City Network of Canada, and has been a Board Member since 2013. Ms. Jerrott chaired the 2015 Creative City Network of Canada Summit in Kelowna, B.C., bringing cultural professionals together to learn from each other, and be inspired through keynote speakers, sessions and study tours. Active in the arts community she is also a member of the Academic Advisory Council for the Arts and Cultural Management Program at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta; and has served as a board member with organizations such as Events Edmonton, producer of the Taste of Edmonton Festival, the Western Canadian Music Alliance, and the JUNO Awards/Canada's Music Awards Host Committee. Working with a dynamic team in St. Albert, Ms. Jerrott oversees the management and operation of the City's cultural facilities such as the Arden Theatre, Art Gallery, Museum and Historic Sites, as well as the City's Public Art Collection. She was instrumental in the development of the City's Cultural Master Plan, and Heritage Management Plan, taking significant steps in recent years towards the implementation of both plans; including producing the Northern Alberta International Children's Festival of the Arts, launching the new Amplify Youth Festival, and St. Albert LIVE YouTube Channel to highlight and celebrate culture in the community. Before joining the City, Ms. Jerrott served as the Executive Director of Edmonton's Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, Executive Director of Music Alberta, and General Manager of the Savoy Theatre in Glace Bay, N.S. Ms. Jerrott is a values-based leader who creates a positive culture that empowers others to strive for excellence, fostering a high level of employee engagement and productivity through innovation and creativity.

Brent Oliver, City of Spruce Grove, AB

Brent Oliver is one of the most earnestly dedicated champions and patrons of the Arts in Alberta. For over 25 years Brent has devoted himself to developing and promoting Alberta arts initiatives, events and artists. This life-long calling grew from Brent's passion for culture. While earning a Music Degree from the University of Alberta, Brent worked as a talent buyer, booking local bands and touring acts at the Rev Cabaret, then at Sidetrack Café, two of Edmonton's most iconic live music venues of in recent history. Guided by his confidence in the strength of Alberta's music community, and his desire to help it grow, Brent established (and became Director of) Foundation Concerts, an Edmonton based concert and arts event promotion company which brought some of the most prominent touring acts to Western Canada. In 2014, Brent brought his wealth of expertise to the City of Spruce Grove as Director of Cultural Services, a position he accepted in August of that year. His responsibilities include management and operation of the Horizon Stage Performing Arts centre, city liaison to the Allied Arts Council and Spruce Grove Library, as well as development of art policy for the future of the City. Brent continues to consult and volunteer on countless cultural initiatives. In September 2013, Brent was elected as a Director on the board of the Alberta Music Industry Association and currently sits as Vice-Chair of the board, and Chair of the organization's Community Engagement Committee.

Nichola Reddington, City of Victoria, BC

Nichola is the Senior Cultural Planner at the City of Victoria. A graduate of Queen's University and Grant MacEwan's Arts & Cultural Management program, Nichola's passion for arts stems from her experience working behind the scenes at various film and theatre productions including the Grand Theatre in Kingston and Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. Prior to her position at the City of Victoria, Nichola worked for The Works Art & Design Festival and the Art and Design in Public Places Program in Edmonton, Public Dreams Society in Vancouver and the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby. Facilitating cultural projects and building capacity within the local arts community has been the focus of her work over the last several years including managing the City's revitalized Spirit Square, coordinating public art projects, liaison with the Poet Laureate position and facilitating the completion of the cultural mapping project Victoria Arts Scan. Working with the arts community, developing audiences, and engaging people in participating in cultural activities is what continues to inspire her.

Alejandro Romero, City of Saskatoon, SK

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico (USA) of multicultural heritage, and moved to Saskatchewan, Canada in 2002. Alejandro was Artist in Resident for the Cultural Capitals Project 2006-2007, working with newcomers to Saskatchewan and later with Inner City neighbourhood at King George Community School in 2007-2008. As a guest artist for the Live Arts program in 2009-2011 he had the opportunity to connect with youth across Saskatchewan through internet workshops. His work interconnects photography, poetry, and painting with the concepts of identity, post-colonialism, prophecy, construction and perceptions of reality, world, emotions, myths and legends. Some of his work is in private collections in Bolivia, Canada, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain and the United States. He has exhibit independently in different galleries in Puerto Rico and Saskatchewan.

Alice Sabourin, City of Hamilton, Ontario

Alice is a senior project manager for the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan. Alice is leading the development of a city-wide cultural planning initiative which includes identifying and mapping cultural resources, engaging citizens and stakeholders in the development of a Cultural Policy and Plan and embedding a cultural lens into all City business. Alice has an MBA in Innovation from McMaster University and is a certified enterprise architect and marketing research professional. Alice's previous experience has included positions in the public and private sector in planning and quality management, marketing and marketing research, and total customer experience.

Konrad Skorupa, City of Toronto, ON

Konrad Skorupa is committed to elevating the creative and cultural identity of the city. Konrad works as a Cultural Development Officer, Economic Development and Culture at the City of Toronto. His primary role is to develop and implement cultural programs and projects that foster and enhance the growth of Toronto as a creative city. Konrad has been employed in the cultural municipal sector for the past ten years and has worked on programs such as City of Toronto culture funding portfolio, cultural policy development and implementation, Below Market Rent spaces, contributor to the *Live with Culture* blog and the *Making Space for Culture* project. Konrad completed his Honors Bachelor of Arts at the University of Toronto. He continued his studies with a Master's in Education in Community Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and a Graduate Professional Certificate in Cultural Sector Leadership at the University of Victoria. In the past, he has served as a advisory board member at the Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA), Canadian Arts Data (CADAC) agency users committee member, Creative City Network Host City Bid Selection Committee member and city representative on *Indirect cultural investments in five large Canadian cities: a preliminary Analysis*. Currently, Konrad sits on the board of Work in Culture, Humber College Arts Administration and Cultural Management Graduate Certificate Program and Ryerson University Creative Industries degree program.

Emily Trottier, City of Greater Sudbury, Ontario

Originally from Sudbury, Ontario, Emily Trottier returned to her hometown after living, studying and working in Tuscany, Italy for five years. With over a decade of experience working with not-for-profit organizations, she has applied her background in business administration (MBA) during their start up, development and expansion phases. Since 2012, Emily has been the municipal staff lead for arts and culture in her role as Business Development Officer and Film Liaison with the City of Greater Sudbury. During this time she has worked to develop processes and policies that support the booming film industry - over the past three years alone Sudbury has hosted over 30 films and six television series - as well as manage funding programs dedicated towards innovation, creativity and economic impact of local arts and culture initiatives. With a solid appreciation for community engagement and collaboration on both international and homegrown levels, Emily has built strong stakeholder networks. Sudbury's cultural offerings have been growing and a renewed Cultural Plan was unanimously endorsed by City Council in 2015.

Michael Tunney, City of Mississauga, ON

Michael Tunney is a Cultural Planner at the City of Mississauga where he leads strategic planning and cultural infrastructure projects, oversees the culture research program, and works with a dynamic team of cultural planning professionals to apply a cultural lens to community and city-wide planning initiatives. Michael has been with the Culture Division since 2011, where he first joined as the inaugural Cultural Researcher and was instrumental in the development of the city's first cultural resource map and the establishment of its research and data collection program. Current projects include co-leading an update to the City's 2009 Culture Master Plan, leading the development of a cultural infrastructure and creative spaces strategy, project managing the conversion of a designated WW2 heritage building into a community cultural hub, and serving on cross-departmental working teams to develop new communities and a vibrant downtown.

Michael holds an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree from the University of Waterloo where he studied geography, economic development, visual arts and tourism planning. In 2008 he completed a post-graduate certificate in Museum Management and Curatorial Studies from Fleming College which lead to internships opportunities at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Royal Ontario Museum and School of Visual Arts in NYC.

Prior to joining the City of Mississauga, Michael's previous experience has included working in the municipal planning departments of the City of Oshawa and the Town of Whitby, and in the commercial art sector for an international artist agency.

Michael first became involved with CCNC in 2014 when he delivered a P2P presentation on cultural research at the Hamilton summit. He has since presented at the first CCNC Ontario member regional meeting in Barrie, served on the Ontario Culture Strategy Working Group, currently serves on the 2017 Summit organizing committee and the Cultural Statistics Consortium, and is co-leading preparations for Mississauga to host the 2018 CCNC Summit.